

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6693

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CARR, SHUM, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING WITH SOMOZA

REF: WELTER-TUCKER TELCON OF MAY 26

1. EMB SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF A SHELTON-SOMOZA MEETING WHILE LATTER IS IN U.S. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS PROTOCOLARY IN THAT ANTI-SOMOZA PERSONALITIES (ROBELO ET AL) HAVE RECENTLY MET WITH ASST SECTY TODMAN.FOR THIS REASON, EMB WOULD SUGGEST THAT MEETING, IF SOMOZA WOULD AGREE, SHOULD BE PRIVATE AND INFORMAL.

2. AMB RECENTLY EXPRESSED TO SOMOZA HIS HOPE FOR SUCH A MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH A SHELTON VISIT TO MANAGUA AND SOMOZA WAS ENTHUSIASTIC. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE SOMOZA WOULD ACCEPT AND BE WILLING TO KEEP THE MEETING PRIVATE. WE WOULD HOPE A MEETING IN THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A SUBSTITUTE FOR A SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO MANAGUA BY SHELTON.

3. EMB ASSUMES SHELTON IS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH SOMOZA'S TECHNIQUE OF ALTERNATING SOFT AND TOUGH LINES TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SYMPATHY AND KEEP HIS AUDIENCE OFF BALANCE.

4. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES COULD BE RAISED:

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A. CHARITON CASE: SPEEDY JUSTICE IS LACKING AND THERE IS SERIOUS CONCERN AMONG HIGH LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS WITH THIS CASE.

B. IAHRC VISIT: OUR BELIEF JUDGEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA SHOULD BE BY INTERNATIONAL BODY, NOT USG.

C. HUMAN RIGHTS: OUR CONCERN OVER ONGOING ALLEGATIONS OF BRUTALITY AND SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DESPITE GENERAL ORDERS TO THE GN TO

EXERCISE RESTRAINT; THE LACK OF INVESTIGATION IN MISSING CAMPESINO CASES; AND THE ABSENCE OF APPARENT JUSTICE IN SOME OTHER CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE GN, AS GN PERSONNEL HAVE NOT BEEN PUNISHED.

D. PRESS RESTRICTION: OUR CONCERN OVER PROVISIONS IN THE RADIO AND TV CODE WHICH APPEAR TO ALLOW ARBITRARY ACTION AND THE APPEARANCE THESE ARBITRARY PROVISIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INVOKED. WE DO RECOGNIZE SOME JOURNALISTIC EXCESSES.

E. DIALOG: OUR HOPE SOMOZA WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO CREATE A CLIMATE WHICH WILL DRAW CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES FROM THE OPPOSITION.

F. CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION: WE, LIKE MOST NICARAGUANS ARE DISTURBED THE INVESTIGATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARD CLARIFYING THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS.

G. NATIONAL GUARD: INSTITUTIONALIZING CONTROL OF THE GN IS A GOAL WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE VITAL TO FUTURE PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY.

H. ELECTORAL LAW: WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT ELECTORAL LAW REFORM BE ACCOMPLISHED AS A RESULT OF A PROCESS WHICH WILL RESTORE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE OPPOSITION THAT FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS CAN TAKE PLACE AND RESULT IN DEMOCRATIC CHANGE.

5. EMB VIEWS THE VALUE OF A SHELTON-SOMOZA MEETING IN WHICH THESE ISSUES ARE RAISED AS REINFORCING EMB EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN NICARAGUA AND OUR CONVICTION THAT IF SOMOZA DOES NOT MOVE POSITIVELY ON THESE ISSUES
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US-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS AND THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION ARE LIKELY TO DETERIORATE. THE MEETING COULD ALSO USEFULLY SPELL OUT USG POLICY WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTAL AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.
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